

Application No. 10/596,657
Amendment dated May 6, 2009
Reply to Office Action dated February 10, 2009

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-8. (canceled)

9. (new): A conduit coupling, comprising:
 a hollow receiver including a receiving space; and
 an insert sealingly and lockingly insertable into said receiving space along an insertion direction, said insert including a retaining ring;
 said receiver further comprising:
 a locking element perpendicularly movable into said receiving space relative to said insertion direction between a raised position, a pushed-in position, and a prelocked position, said prelocked position being intermediate said pushed-in and said raised positions, said locking element including a transverse portion and a pair of arms extending from opposite ends of said transverse portion;
 said locking element having a first beveled surface, said first beveled surface engageable with said retaining ring, upon initial insertion of said insert into said receiving space to a first insertion position, to move said locking element from said pushed-in position to said raised position;
 said receiver further including a prelock assembly and a pullback assembly, said prelock and pullback assemblies cooperating with said retaining ring when said insert is inserted into said receiver beyond said first insertion position into a second insertion position in which said retaining ring has moved out of contact with said first beveled surface, wherein said prelock assembly prevents said retaining ring and said insert from being pulled out

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of said receiver when said insert has moved into said second position; and said pullback assembly moves said locking element into said prelocked position;

 said prelock assembly including a retaining portion formed on said transverse portion of said locking element, said retaining portion engaging said retaining ring in said second insertion position to prevent said insert from being pulled out of said receiver, and said arms of said locking element respectively including click-stop projections cooperating with snap-in projections of said retainer, said click-stop projections located adjacent to and on one side of said snap-in projections in said pushed-in position, and located adjacent to and on another side of said snap-in projections in said prelock position; and

 said pullback assembly including second beveled surfaces respectively disposed on said arms of said locking element and associated with third beveled surfaces of said receiver, said second and third beveled surfaces cooperating to generate a force in a direction opposite to the direction of movement of said locking element from said prelocked position to said raised position.

10. (new): The conduit of Claim 9, wherein said locking member is immovable along said insertion direction.

11. (new): The conduit of Claim 10, further comprising first and second sealing rings provided within said receiving space of said receiver.

12. (new): The conduit of Claim 11, further comprising an intermediate ring disposed between said first and second sealing rings.

13. (new): The conduit of Claim 12, further comprising a spacer ring retaining said first and second sealing rings and said intermediate ring, said retaining portion engaging said spacer ring in said second insertion position.

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14. (new): The conduit of Claim 9, wherein said arms of said locking element respectively include locking noses engageable with associated locking shoulders of said retainer in said pushed in position.